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DEATH OF GESSI PASHA.— THE “SUDD.”

In our issue of March last, we reported the terrible sufferings endured by Gessi Pasha and his followers in the Bahr Gazelle, where they were shut in for months by the impassable “Sudd” of those waters. For a description of this extraordinary growth of weed, we are indebted to Colonel Gordon’s new book, where it is thus described :—

“THE SUDD.

“I have spoken of the opening of the ‘sudd.’ You know that the Nile comes out of Albert Nyanza Lake. Below Gondokors it spreads out into lakes; on the edge of these lakes, an aquatic plant, with roots extending five feet into the water, flourishes. The natives burn the top parts, when dry; the ashes form mould, and fresh grasses grow, till it becomes like *terra firma*. The Nile rises, and floats out the masses; they come down to a curve, and there stop. More of these islands float down, and at last the river is blocked. Though under

them the water flows, no communication can take place, for they bridge the river for several miles. Last year the Governor went up, and with three companies and two steamers he cut large blocks of the vegetation away. At last, one night, the water burst the remaining part, and swept down on the vessels, dragged the steamers down some four miles, and cleared the passage. The Governor says the scene was terrible. The hippopotamuses were carried down, screaming and snorting; crocodiles were whirled round and round, and the river was covered with dead and dying hippopotamuses, crocodiles, and fish which had been crushed by the mass. One hippopotamus was carried against the bows of the steamer and killed, one crocodile, twenty-five feet long, was also killed. The Governor, who was in the marsh, had to go five miles on a raft to get to his steamer. You can scarcely imagine the advantage of this opening to me. It took people eighteen months and two years to go to Gondokoro from here, and now it is only twenty-one days in the steamer.”—Colonel Gordon in *Central Africa*.

The Sudd had again formed and become impenetrable when Gessi Pasha

was caught in its massive folds at the end of last year, in a steamer only 40 horse-power, which ought never to have been sent into the dangerous windings of the Bahr Gazelle.

After losing between four and five hundred of the men, women, and children who were shut up in the miserable steamer in this desolate sea of weed, Gessi struggled on to Khartoum. Here he was so badly received by Raouf Pasha, the present Governor-General of the Soudan, that he determined to go to Cairo, and lay his case before the Khedive. On the way thither he was overtaken by death, to the great regret of all who care for the suppression of the slave-trade in the Soudan. Of all the officers left by Colonel Gordon to carry on the great work which he had commenced, Gessi Pasha was the only one who appeared to be at all earnest in the cause; and with him the chief obstacle to the uninterrupted prosecution of the hideous traffic is removed. We quote from *The Times*, of 16th May, a short notice of this remarkable man, which is truly a sad and touching history.

A Correspondent writes:—"Gessi Pasha, the tried friend and coadjutor of Colonel Gordon in the Soudan, has fallen a sacrifice to his zeal in the cause of humanity. He died on the evening of the 30th of April, in the French hospital at Suez, after protracted sufferings, caused by the terrible privations endured in the months of November and December last, when he was shut in by an impassable barrier of weed in the Bahr-Gazelle River, Upper Egypt, as already recorded in the letter of your Alexandria correspondent, which appeared in *The Times* of the 10th of March last. It will be remembered that under his command a small army of black Soudan soldiers hunted down the slave-dealers of that district, and rooted out the slave-trade for a time. But the experiences of his return northwards must have been even more terrible to him than those of his long, harassing campaign against the slavers and their armed bands. He started in a steamer towing a flotilla of rafts

and boats, with a caravan of some 500 people, soldiers, and others, last September. They had food enough for the ordinary journey; but the expedition was completely blocked by the *sudd*, the vegetable growth of the Nile, which in extreme tropical latitudes converts the river into a vast impenetrable marsh, and stops all traffic as completely as the ice does in a northern river. After losing more than 400 of his followers from hunger, and being himself reduced to a skeleton, the remainder of his men who had been driven to feed upon the corpses of their companions, were rescued and brought to Khartoum. Gessi's reception by Raouf Pasha, the successor of Colonel Gordon, was by no means a generous one, and Gessi was on his way to Cairo to lay his case before the Khedive when death overtook him at Suez. The Italian Count Penazzi, and another Italian officer were assiduous in their attention to the hunger and fever-stricken soldier, but no skill could restore the strength that had been so severely tried in the impenetrable weeds of the Upper Nile. He has left a wife and family dependent for their support upon the generosity of the Egyptian Government which certainly owes much to Gessi Pasha. In him the natives of the Soudan have lost their staunchest friend and the Khedive a faithful servant. One who was with Gessi when he died, and who knows the country well, thus writes of him:—

'With poor Gessi disappears all the philanthropic work initiated by Colonel Gordon in the Soudan. He was the only obstacle to the slave-trade and to the return to ancient abuses. This obstacle is now gone, and Raouf Pasha and all his prowling Arabs will have a fine time, ruining the country. Alas, for the poor slaves!'"

VISIT OF THE KHEDIVE TO THE DYING MAN.

L'Egypte of May 18, gives a long and interesting account of the *Last Moments of Gessi Pasha*. The young Khedive, accompanied by M. de Lesseps, paid a visit to the illustrious Italian who has laid down his life for the cause of the slave, and the last moments of the dying soldier were cheered by the satisfaction that the hostility shown towards him by the Governor-General of the Soudan—Raouf Pasha—was not approved by his sovereign.

We quote the following from *L'Egypte*:—"When they announced to Gessi (who

was in the hospital at Suez) the visit of the Khedive, he evidenced a very lively emotion—his face was lighted up by a factitious glow, his eye became bright, and his heart beat more quickly. Then, composing himself, he awaited in silence and calmness the arrival of the sovereign in whose service he was now about to offer up his life. The Khedive on entering the chamber, went straight to the bed-side of the dying man. 'Pacha,' said he, 'you will be cured—at least I trust so. You must be preserved for your children and for Egypt.'

"The vital force of this lately vigorous man was now only maintained by the amazing strength of his will. He now burst into tears and sobbed out in half inarticulate tones the sad words: 'Monseigneur, I thank you for coming here to visit me. Though I have sacrificed everything, even life, in order to serve Egypt faithfully, your presence in this chamber renders my death more peaceful. *Merçi je suis recompensé.*'

"The young Khedive was much moved, and then his friend, the veteran M. de Lesseps—still vigorous after his long campaign of over 70 years—said, 'No, Gessi, you shall not die; the visit of the Khedive will save you.' Gessi smiled sadly in reply, for he felt that he was beyond human aid. The assistance so tardily and so grudgingly sent when he was enclosed in a living tomb in the terrible 'Sudd' of the Bahr Gazelle, had come all too late. The strong man was stricken down by famine and its horrible accompaniments, nor could the sympathy of his sovereign give him back that life which had been slowly ebbing away during months of almost unparalleled sufferings. Let us hope that the young Khedive will not neglect to provide handsomely for the widow and children of his chivalrous servant."

NOTE: For a full account of Gessi's frightful sufferings in the *Sudd*, see Colonel Gordon in *Central Africa*, pp. 390-2.

THE LATE GESSI PACHA.

WE have received the following very interesting letter respecting the late Gessi Pacha. The Anti-Slavery Society will certainly use any influence it may possess in advocating the claims of Gessi's widow and family on the Egyptian Government, for there can

be no doubt that the Khedive owes a deep debt of gratitude to his faithful officer, to say nothing of any arrears of pay. The statement published in the *Pungalo* we presume alludes to such advocacy of Gessi's claim, for the Anti-Slavery Society unfortunately possesses no means of bestowing any other kind of "reward."

"Syra, 14th May, 1881.

"Sir,

"An article in the Italian newspaper *Pungalo* of the 5th inst., on the occasion of the death of Romolo Gessi who died at Suez the 31st April last, on his return to Europe from Equatorial Africa, states that 'the Anti-Slavery Society of London had already decided on the 'highest reward for this great humanitarian.'

"Be that as it may, doubtless the Society duly appreciates the merits of the deceased, who has left a widow with a boy and girl, in, I much fear, straightened circumstances, and as a friend of the family, having known the deceased from childhood, I take the liberty of suggesting that if the Society would use its powerful interest, and recommend the family to the Italian Government for the purpose of obtaining a pension for the widow, and provision for the boy Felice Gessi, now some 14 years old, and also to the Egyptian Government, in whose service Romolo Gessi was when he died, it would be an act of charity.

Romolo Gessi's father, Marco, who was a native of Ravenna was *Cauceiere* in the British Consulate General in Bucarest, and died there while I was acting Consul General in 1842, leaving a widow, who still survives, with three children, the eldest a girl, herself now a widow with a numerous family; Romolo, now lately deceased; and Nino, the youngest, who met with a violent death, being murdered on board ship by a mutinous crew, who plundered and destroyed the vessel he was in carrying stores for merchants in Smyrna to Constantinople for the troops in the Crimea during the war.

Romolo Gessi, born in Constantinople, got his schooling in Germany, and on my being appointed Vice-Consul at Toultscha in 1848, I took him into my service, as he was acquainted with the French, German, Italian, Greek, Wallachian, and Turkish languages; and he soon learned also English and Russian.

When the Crimean war broke out in 1854, on my recommendation to Colonel Dickson, R.A., Romolo Gessi was appointed an interpreter, and he was with the British army throughout the campaign, being by the side of General Fox Strangways when the latter was killed. He received the medal and all the clasps.

On Colonel Gordon's appointment under the Egyptian Government Romolo Gessi accompanied him; and his subsequent exploits in circumnavigating the lake Tanganyika,* in combating and putting down the slaving chiefs and tribes, are too well known to require me to refer to them.

Romolo Gessi's widow is a German by birth, and resides with her children in Trieste, Via dei Bacchi, No. 441, where she will shortly be joined by her aged and afflicted mother-in-law.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
ST. VINCENT LLOYD,
Ex. British Consul.

To the Secretary Anti-Slavery
Society, London.

* We think this should be Lake Albert Nyanza.—*Ed.*

RAOUF PACHA, GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF THE SOUDAN.

OUR readers have heard something of Raouf Pacha of late. We have been accused in high quarters of weakening the hands of the Governor-General and his officials in their endeavours to carry out the orders of their Government, it being understood that these orders involved the suppression of the slave-trade.

Whether we are right or not in our estimate of Raouf Pacha and of his unfitness to carry out the work initiated by Colonel Gordon will be seen hereafter. Meanwhile, there has been no satisfactory refutation of the charges made against the Governor-General by various correspondents, though some rash statements have been made by the English representative in Egypt as to the cessation of the slave-trade, which are doubtless based upon the extraordinary document to which we referred in our March number as emanating from Khartoum.—*Vide Reporter*, page 37.

In Dr. Hill's book, entitled *Colonel Gordon in Central Africa*, we find various allusions to Raouf Pacha, which we now transcribe, in order that the character of Colonel Gordon's successor may be known, as it appeared to his Commander-in-Chief.

Colonel Gordon writes—

Zeila, April 17, 1878.

Zeila used to belong to Turkey. His Highness got it in exchange for some £15,000 a-year extra tribute!! and then he annexed Harrar. . . I hope to leave for Harrar this afternoon; it is eight days' journey. Raouf Pacha is there; the same man who was at the Equator with Baker and with me, and whom I deposed from that province exactly four years ago yesterday. I am going to turn him out again, for he seems to be a regular tyrant. * * *

This country is a desert, and it is wonderful how people can exist in it. I met some £2,000 worth of coffee, which my friend Raouf Pacha had sent down to be sold on his private account at Aden, meaning to buy merchandise and retail the same at exorbitant prices to the soldiers at Harrar. I have confiscated it all. * * *

April 26.—Still two days' journey from Harrar. A detachment of Bashi-Bazouks, with camels and horses, has just come in from Harrar, bringing a letter from Raouf, saying he acknowledges my order turning him out. * * * A merchant said, when he heard that Raouf was to be turned out, that it would need the Khedive to come and do it, and then he doubted it. My course is clear. "Will you, or will you not, obey my orders?" It appears that the old Sultan or Ameer (whom Burton knew) some three years ago, oppressed his people at Harrar; and, favouring the Gala tribes, bullied the Mussulman part of the population. The people asked His Highness to come and take possession, which he did—sending Raouf. . . . He went up, and had no opposition shown him worth speaking; but eight days after, he had the poor Sultan, or Ameer, strangled—an unnecessary act on his part.

The son of the Sultan went to Cairo and complained. His Highness is said to have been very angry, but did nothing. Raouf had a great chief of the Gala tribes a prisoner in irons, but when he heard I was coming he released him.

In another portion of his book, Colonel Gordon thus speaks of Raouf Pacha:

This Raouf had never conciliated the tribes, never had planted dhooa; and, in fact, only possessed the land he camped upon. * * *

Raouf, however, has taken alarm about the slaves whom I saw, but nothing, I am sure, will be done. The whole strength of the Government is turned on amassing money, on outward forms of state, and on ruining the country by taxes and burthensome charges. . . . My work is in the Bahr Gazelle, and there the memory of my government will not pass away.

In an Appendix, the Editor thus writes, page 310 :

March, 23, 1881.

"The end of all honest attempts to put a stop to slave-hunting has come even sooner than I feared. Gessi Pacha, in a letter, dated, Khartoum, February 8, 1881, informs Colonel Gordon that he has found his position intolerable, and that he has retired from the Bahr Gazelle. He has been ousted from his post by the acts of Raouf Pacha, Governor-General of the Soudan, the man who had formerly played the part of a tyrant at Harrar."*

THE ANTI-SLAVERY BANQUET IN PARIS.

On the 5th ult. a banquet, at which some 250 guests were present, was given in Paris to commemorate the Abolition of Slavery in the French Colonies.

Monsieur Victor Schœlcher, the veteran Abolitionist, and now a Life Senator of France, who has during nearly half a century not only accomplished, but suffered much in promoting the cause of human freedom both at home and abroad, presided on the occasion, and traced in striking language the rapid progress and growing prosperity of the Colonies of France ever since the day that she was inspired to emancipate her slaves—to grant them emancipation prompt and complete without any question as to a term of probation or an apprenticeship to freedom.

Monsieur Gambetta also spoke, and in his address, gave great credit to the

Republic of 1848, for the emancipation of the slaves, but ascribed all honour to that Apostle of Liberty Victor Schoelcher, who, as director of the Colonies at the time, had the heart and courage to pen, "*Le secret immortel*," "*La République Française n'admet plus d'esclaves sur le territoire Française*."

The president and other officers of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society had been invited to the Banquet but having been unable to accept the courteous invitation, they requested their friend and able coadjutor Mr. James Long M.A. to represent the Society on the occasion, and to convey an address of congratulation as follows:—

TO THE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE
FOR THE BANQUET COMMEMORATIVE OF THE
LIBERATION OF SLAVES IN THE FRENCH
COLONIES.

GENTLEMEN,—We have great pleasure in accepting your invitation to commemorate with you the anniversary of the day on which France, under the noble inspiration which, in 1848, animated her statesmen and people, delivered herself and her Colonies from the crime and the curse of Colonial Slavery. Since that time she has shewn in her West Indian Islands, that by a wiser direction of industrial energy, she has been able sooner to secure the economical and social benefits of emancipation, which were more slowly realized in the British West Indies.

But, gentlemen, while we have the happiness of joining you in mutual felicitations on these triumphs for human freedom which have been won in the past by France and by Engl. over the slavery which existed so long in their Colonies, we venture to seize this auspicious occasion for claiming your alliance, and the alliance of France, in assailing the demon of slavery, where, heretofore unassailable, he yet holds his empire with relentless rule and in gigantic proportions.

You are aware that the slave-trade yet flourishes unchecked over vast regions of the African Continent, but you may not, like ourselves, be so alive to the fact, proofs of which are crowding upon us, that this traffic with the devastation and the desolation it is inflicting on Africa, owes its continued existence to the complicity and the covert support of the Government of Egypt, as it is now administered.

Footnote by Dr. Birkbeck Hill:—

* This man is now Governor-General of the Soudan. This "regular tyrant" has been chosen by the present Khedive as the successor of Colonel Gordon.—Ed.

Of the immense proportions assumed by this horrible traffic, your countryman, M. Berlioux of Lyons, a gentleman who has most carefully studied the subject, has given the following account:—

“Nous le verrons cependant, en recueillant les données éparses, en rapprochant les faits on arrive à cette conclusion, indiquée déjà, qu'il y a annuellement, ou qu'il y a eu en certaines années une exportation de 70,000 ou 80,000 personnes. Dans ce nombre ne sont pas compris tous ceux qui ont succombé avant, d'arriver au marché, et il y a des routes où les victimes sont si nombreuses, qu'on peut suivre les traces des caravanes par les cadavres laissés derrière elles. Si on veut y joindre les hommes qui se sont fait tuer en défendant leur liberté et ceux qui sont allés avec leurs familles périr de misère au milieu des marais ou des déserts, on arrivera à un chiffre effrayant. Sur certains points, d'après le témoignage d'un voyageur, l'esclavage ne représente qu'un cinquième et, sur d'autres points, un dixième de la population anéantie par cette chasse. Ainsi, à côté des 70,000 malheureux qui partent chaque année pour l'exil le plus affreux, il y a, chaque année aussi, de trois à quatre cent mille morts qui restent sur le champ de bataille de la traite.”

And this account, gentlemen, represents no more than the actual condition of the slave traffic in the present time.

We may be asked what are the rights which shall entitle France and England to interfere with the Administration in Egypt?

Gentlemen, there are crimes which from their very nature constitute their perpetrators the enemies of mankind—“*hostes humani generis*.” Such is the character of piracy, and such beyond all controversy is the character of the Slave Trade, whether pursued in the heart of Africa or carried on from its shores, and therefore is it, gentlemen, that we come on this occasion to solicit your aid in inviting the attention of your Government to this important matter.

Not only have we a right to interfere on behalf of humanity, but on behalf of those great commercial interests of civilised nations which are paralysed by the Slave trade, whenever it is attempted to plant them in Eastern Africa. When Europe has already superseded self government in Egypt, by administering its finances on behalf of her bondholders, it is not too much to assert that Europe has yet a stronger right to interpose for the suppression of the Slave Trade, not merely on behalf of her commercial interest, but to vindicate the primary laws of nature and of nations.

Gentlemen, we now submit that it rests largely with France to give the death-blow to slavery in Egypt and the Eastern world. Without her co-operation, or at least concurrence, England is not competent to inaugurate and to enforce such practical reforms in the administration of Egypt as shall secure the extinction of the Slave Trade and slavery.

For effecting this object, we would therefore suggest as the only certain means, the adoption of that same method which has proved so successful in securing the reform of her department of revenue and finance; that is a commission in which France and England shall hold joint control, with the same powers to deal with delinquents in complicity with the Slave Trade, as have been found effectual under the finance commission in the revenue department.

By such measures, gentlemen, and by such energetic measures alone, can slavery and the Slave Trade be efficiently checked in Eastern Africa; and in appealing to you for your valuable co-operation, we believe we shall not appeal in vain.

Signed for, and on behalf of the Committee,

JOSEPH COOPER, } *Hon. Secs.*
EDMUND STURGE, }
CHAS. H. ALLEN, *Secretary.*

London, 55, New Broad Street,
2nd May, 1881.

The above address, delivered in French, was received with much applause, and, at the proposal of the President (M. Schoelcher), it was resolved unanimously to present it to the Government in the name of the meeting—a resolution which was kindly carried out, and in due form by the President himself in person.

This procedure, Mr. Long, owing to his personal intimacy with many of the most influential members of the Senate and Assembly, was enabled to follow up with remarkable success by securing a serious consideration of the objects proposed by the address; whilst his command of the French language afforded him every facility in obtaining the Society's aim in all its details.

But we must defer until a future date a complete report of the successful results of Mr. Long's mission to Paris in support of the views of the Anti-Slavery Society as now conveyed in its address, not only to the Premier of England but to the Government of France.

THE BOERS AND NATIVES IN THE TRANSVAAL.

The ABORIGINES PROTECTION SOCIETY held their Annual Meeting at Devonshire House, Bishopsgate Street,

on the 18th May, the Earl of Shaftesbury, K.G., in the chair. We wish we had space to quote more largely from the Report so ably drawn up by Mr. Chesson, which was most cordially received by a large and appreciative audience. We would also gladly print in full the closing address of the noble chairman, which was a masterly summary of the whole question. The subject was treated in that lofty and Christian tone which is characteristic of the life and teaching of the venerable Earl—the Emancipator of the white slaves of the coal mines and of the factories.

Unfortunately we can only find room for the annexed extract relating to the Transvaal, and to the apprenticeship system there and in the Cape Colonies, which may well claim our special notice as being A MODIFIED FORM OF SLAVERY.

The rising in the Transvaal next engaged the anxious attention of the Committee, who felt that while they had neither the right nor the desire to endeavour to restrict the liberties of the European population, yet it was clearly their duty to plead for the rights of the native tribes, who, besides outnumbering the Boers in the proportion of twenty to one, had, on other grounds, at least an equal claim to be consulted as to their future government. Mr. Forster, now Chief Secretary for Ireland, presented this point of view at a very early stage of the controversy: and we venture to assert that the British Government, in withdrawing from the Transvaal, could not, either with justice or with safety, ignore the claims of the natives to consideration. Even if the conduct of the Boers towards the natives in past years had been far more satisfactory than we believe it to have been, this remark would still hold; for in leaving the Transvaal, it is obviously our duty to give it up to all its rightful owners, and not merely to one section of them. We fully admit that the practices to which we have called frequent attention in former years—we refer to marauding expeditions on the Transvaal borders, and to the sale of young Kaffirs in the manner described by Dr. Livingstone, Dr. Moffat. Mr. Chapman the African traveller, Colonel Gawler, and other eye-witnesses—have been far less frequent since public opinion, about thirteen years ago, was first strongly directed to this subject, and especially since the Duke of Buckingham prohibited the sale of ammunition to the Boers. But, as we showed in a statement we published in February last, the Republic passed laws which prevented the natives from holding titles to land, and endeavoured to coerce their labour by enforcing laws that

rendered it practically impossible for them to move from one district to another, and thereby compelled them to work for the Boers at nominal rates of wages, or for no wages at all. If such control of the labour of adult Kaffirs combined with compulsory apprenticeship of younger natives is not slavery, it certainly is not freedom, especially when masters assume the right to flog their Kaffir servants for the most trivial offences, and even mistresses (if disposed to be brutal) are at liberty to send their coloured female servants to prison to receive the lash.

A writer in a leading Dutch journal—*The Hervorming*—in answering our strictures on the native policy of the Boers, says that the pass law “had not so much the object of forcing the blacks to serve the whites as to prevent vagrancy, to attach them more to their country and people, and to prevent migrations on a large scale.” The writer considers that in principle this law is not to be condemned, but he frankly adds that “sometimes misuse of it was made not by the mass but by individuals who in the pass system saw, or pretended to see, the tendency to turn to their own profit as much as possible ‘the cursed race of Ham.’” It appears to us that our case is proved by this admission: for no laws can with safety be allowed to remain on the statute-book which enable a selfish minority to oppress or plunder their weaker neighbours, the colour of whose skin happens to differ from their own.

We think that the Government have acted wisely in appointing a Royal Commission to give effect to the terms of peace which have been concluded with the Boers. In a memorial which we addressed to Lord Kimberley on March 31st, we said that we rejoiced to learn that the Royal Commission would be instructed to consider the provisions that are necessary to secure protection for the natives, and also to report upon the expediency of severing from the Transvaal a portion of the territories included within its present boundaries. We showed from an estimate made by Mr. H. C. Shepstone, late Native Secretary of the Transvaal Government, that in Lydenberg, Waterberg, and Zoutpansberg there are 661,595 natives, 2654 Dutch, and 502 English, and that the number of adult white men in these three districts only numbered 647. There is therefore no pretence for saying that this portion of the Transvaal belongs to the Boers, still less are they entitled to Sekukuni's country, which unfortunately was conquered by British arms, and at the expense of the British exchequer. While approving of the proposed delimitation of the Transvaal frontier, we also asked that the right of the natives to hold land should be secured; that the flogging of natives for trivial offences, and especially the flogging of women, should be prohibited; and that protection should be given to missionaries who, while obeying the laws of the country, were willing to

labour for the elevation of the coloured race. The Committee desire to express their grateful acknowledgments to the Earl of Shaftesbury for the invaluable aid he afforded them in bringing these practical points before the Secretary of State for the Colonies; and at the same time, they earnestly hope that the Royal Commissioners may succeed in their arduous task, and that, so far as they are able to influence the course of events, peace with freedom may be established throughout the Transvaal.

While condemning the conduct of the Boers in upholding practices which are inconsistent with the personal rights of the natives, it behoves our Government to be careful that they do not sanction in our own colonies a similar departure from the path of justice. We have had repeated occasion during the last two years to protest against the practice of indenturing for lengthened periods the prisoners whom the Cape Volunteers have captured in war: and on our remonstrances Sir Michael Hicks Beach wrote a despatch to the Governor of the Cape Colony, in which he emphatically expressed his opinion that the period of indentureship should be limited to twelve months. We regret to learn that this system is still in operation in the Cape colony. Large numbers of natives who had been made prisoners in the Transkei were ordered to be removed to the Diamond Fields to be indentured, but escaped on the way. The following letter which we have received from a trustworthy source, shows what is now taking place in Griqualand East. Our correspondent says:—"We are exceedingly sad about the miserable condition in which we see our Basutos in Griqualand East. All those that are made prisoners are at once taken as servants by the farmers, receiving only their food in return. As there is no one to exercise justice, the farmers take them to their farms, and there they are treated as slaves. Not only have they to work hard the whole week, but also on Sunday they have to work from morning to night. The other day my husband found two women of his congregation on a farm. They showed him behind a door a stick which they told him was used to beat them. They are reduced to a state of meagreness and poverty distressing to behold. Last week we had quite an affair. Two young girls had attended the service held by my husband; their master beat them for neglecting their work, and, goaded on by hunger and ill-treatment they fled into the mountains. Policemen were sent after them, but they have not yet been caught."

It is, of course, necessary to make allowance for the circumstances of a country which has so recently been the scene of rebellion, but obviously there is extreme danger that this system of enforced apprenticeship may, if unchecked, degenerate into slavery.—Ed.

SIR T. SHEPSTONE ON SLAVERY IN THE TRANSVAAL.

The special correspondent of *The Times*, writing from Natal under date May 1st, 1881, gives us Sir T. Shepstone's views of slavery in the Transvaal, as received personally from that gentleman. Of all authorities on this subject he may certainly be considered one of the best informed. We recommend Sir Theophilus Shepstone's remarks to Sir Wilfrid Lawson, M.P., as they will explain how it is that no one has been able to claim his reward of £10 for proof of any *slave having been set free* in the Transvaal by the British Government. The so called apprentices, alias slaves, were not set free, as *such a measure would greatly have offended the Boers*. But they were there all the same as we now learn from a better authority than that of Sir Wilfrid Lawson.

"It is, or rather was, usual for each Boer to hold two farms, one in the high lands and one in the *bushveldt* or low country, the former for summer and the latter for winter grazing. In early days, when a farm was first assigned to a Boer, it often happened that there was a considerable native population upon it. These natives became a sort of serfs to the Boers, who claimed a certain amount of labour from them in return for protection. The system of apprenticeship, which has long existed among the Boers, is really slavery in disguise. If you want to know how these apprentices used to be obtained in the old days, you can refer to a deposition sworn before me at Pietermaritzburg on the 31st of December, 1847, relating the proceedings of a party of Boers from Origstadt against one Umsilikasi and also against a tribe of friendly Bechuanas, headed by a chief named Langa. This deposition is published in a Parliamentary Blue-book of 1848, or thereabouts, on Natal affairs. Though in reality slaves, the Boers treated the apprentices, as a rule, well, and they have never treated the women subject to them as they were treated in the slave States of America. When the Transvaal was annexed there was no general manumission of apprentices. Such a measure would

greatly have offended the Boers and made the change of Government unpopular at once; but no doubt the apprentices gradually got to know that they were retained in bondage illegally, and many refused to serve their masters any longer, while, of course, no fresh apprentices were bound. I have no doubt that the inconvenience of losing their apprentices was one of the things which led to the late war. * * *

"I believe that the Transvaal contains about 800,000 natives, scattered over the interior. There are 400,000 in Natal and 500,000 in Zululand. This enormous native population is a great danger to Natal and the Transvaal, and must always suggest the possibility of a struggle something like the Indian Mutiny. I find it very difficult to reply to questions I am asked by the natives about recent events. Their questions are often most perplexing and very difficult to parry. It is quite possible that under the new order of things in the Transvaal this huge native surrounding population may become a source of danger to the Boers, and they may have cause to regret that from a sentimental desire for independence they have deprived themselves of the valuableegis of the British Government."

EGYPT AND ABYSSINIA.

THE question of the cession to Abyssinia by Egypt of a port in Annesley Bay must soon be definitely settled, in spite of the assertions officially made, that Abyssinia does not desire a port. Herr Gerhard Rohlfs has arrived in Europe, armed with full powers to make a treaty of peace between Abyssinia and Egypt, but, as the following letter, published in the *The Times*, of 6th June, will show, he cannot do so unless a port is given to Abyssinia, and cannot obtain this cession unless England supports, as she has promised to do, the demand of King John.

To the Editor of *The Times*.

Sir,—Herr Gerhard Rohlfs, who has lately arrived in Germany on a diplomatic mission from the King of Abyssinia, has written to me an important letter with reference to the reply given by Sir Charles Dilke to Sir George Campbell in the House of Commons on the 19th of May. In that reply Sir Charles Dilke said, "that there was no evidence to show that the Abyssinians, who did not claim a port, and could not manage it if possessed by them, were desirous of obtaining one."

I have the honour to send herewith a copy of Herr Gerhard Rohlfs's comments on the above statement, which fully agrees with what Colonel Gordon has told us, viz., that without a port there will be no peace.

CHARLES H. ALLEN, Secretary.

"Weimar, May 27, 1881.

"My dear Sir, It is quite astonishing that not only the Khedival Government, but also the European Consuls, have the most absurd and confused ideas about Abyssinia. The Negus (the King), in order to make peace with Egypt, has set forth as a *sine quâ non* the cession of Zullah (Annesley Bay) and Hanfla; and, as Gordon has shown that Egypt possesses no right of sovereignty on this coast, I believe there will be no difficulty as to the cession on the part of Egypt. But this depends entirely upon England. Our Government (the German), in my opinion has no wish to be the advocate of the Negus; but I believe that Germany will always support the British Government if that is well disposed towards the Negus. As for commerce, it will be very important to open up communication with Abyssinia, and, as regards the abolition of the trade in Negroes, there could be no more efficacious mode than the opening of the coast to Europeans.

"The King showed me a letter, signed by Queen Victoria and counter-signed by Lord Salisbury, which promises to support him amicably. I believe I have told you that the Negus has given me full power to negotiate a peace for him with the Khedive; but I shall only be able to do this if I can be sure that England will support his demands.

Yours, &c.,

"GERHARD ROHLFS.

"To Charles H. Allen, Esq."

(To the Editor of the *Times*.)

Sir,—In reply to a question in the House of Commons last evening Sir Charles Dilke stated, on the authority of Her Majesty's Agent in Egypt, "that there was no evidence to show that the Abyssinians, who did not claim a port, and could not manage it if possessed by them, were desirous of obtaining one."

Will you kindly allow us to state that in September, 1879, we received from King John of Abyssinia an autograph letter in which he complained that the Egyptians shut him up in his country and would not allow him to communicate with the outer world? He concluded his letter thus:—"All these wrong things done to me I have written to Her Majesty, and kindly report all these words in England for my sake."

A copy of King John's letter appeared in the *Times* of the 17th September, 1879, but, as it appears not to have been recorded at the Foreign Office, we shall be glad if you will allow us to repeat the complaint made by the Abyssinian King.

HENRY S. KING & Co.

65, Cornhill, E.C., May 20th.

THE SLAVE-TRADE COMMISSION IN EGYPT.

We learn from the *Courrier Egyptien* that Colonel Thurneysen returned to Cairo on 19th inst. from his expedition to the Shargher Oasis, which, according to our contemporary, is only four days' march from Assiout.

If Colonel Thurneysen did go to the Shargher Oasis why did he confine his visit to this oasis alone? why did he not visit the other oases, for instance the Dachle Oasis and the Farafrah Oasis? It is passing strange that the troops which are detailed off for the duty of guarding the approaches from the Oases are commanded by native officers, while their European superiors spend most of their time in Cairo.

The inquisitive mood is upon us and "we want to know" why Count Della Salla Pasha does not visit the oases himself? Has he ever visited them? We only express public opinion in stating that His Excellency should not depute this important duty to any subordinate, however able.

The courageous young traveller, Mr. Gottfried Roth, performed a greater service in his perilous journey to the Siwah Oasis than his superior officers in the Department for the suppression of the Slave-trade, and we recommend them in future to take upon themselves the more distant expeditions unless they wish it to be said that an humble subordinate surpasses them in his devotion to the noble cause in which they are engaged.—*Egyptian Gazette*, May 25th.

The Police Office at Cairo is to be relieved of the duty of registering and watching released slaves. This work is to be undertaken in future by H. E. Sami Pasha, and the police force will henceforth have nothing to do with the surveillance of released slaves. This is a step in the right direction, and we congratulate the Government on having confided this work to an official of such well known energy and integrity as Sami Pasha. This appointment will also enable the European officials of the Department for the Suppression of the Slave-trade to be less in Cairo and more in the neighbourhood of the oases for the future.—*Egyptian Gazette*, 28th May.

ALLEGED KIDNAPPING IN THE SOUTH SEA ISLANDS.

Baron Miklouho-Maclay, the Russian Scientist who has spent many years among the inhabitants of New Guinea and the South Sea Islands, has addressed a letter to the Commodore of the Australian Naval Squadron, in which the following remarks occur:—"The constant recurrence in the daily papers of paragraphs relative to the murders and massacres in the South Sea Islands, and the review of my own experience of several years of life spent amongst the aboriginals of different islands in the Pacific, impel me to express my opinion on this matter, and to direct attention to some special points connected therewith. That the exportation of slaves (for it is only right to give the transaction its proper name) to New Caledonia, Fiji, Samoa, Queensland, and other countries, by kidnapping and carrying away the natives under cover of false statements and lying promises still goes on to a very large extent, I am prepared to aver and support by facts. The conduct of many whites towards the aboriginals of the South Sea Islands is in no way justifiable, and of the truth of this I have many instances at my command, and I am not surprised that reprisals on the part of the natives take place. Impartial observation of the South Sea Islanders teaches that they are assuredly not more cruel and more revengeful than the whites (skippers and traders) who visit them, and that they know how to value and understand just and equitable treatment."

KING JOHN OF ABYSSINIA AND THE MISSIONARIES.

"When I enquired about Stecker's journey—for here one must ask about every trivial thing—the Negus said, 'most willingly: I wish that artisans, artists and learned men should come to my kingdom, which I should like to raise by their means into the same state of civilisation that you have in Europe. But so long as there is not peace with Egypt, so long as I must live in fear that some such adventurer as Munzinger may make raids into Abyssinia with Egyptian troops—take from me my provinces, and, without cause, rob me of my land and my people, so long must I shut myself up.' [N.B.—This, we take it, is his reason for excluding travellers.] 'By God's help we have twice defeated and annihilated

the Egyptians, and, if I had not been so stupid (these were the Negus' own words), I might have obtained anything I liked from the Khedive, as his son was in my hands. There is only one thing,' continued the Negus Negest—(this is usually translated the King of the Kings of Ethiopia) 'that I cannot tolerate, viz., missionaries. I and my people do not want to become either Catholic or Protestant, but wish to keep to our own faith. The Catholics teach that their religion is above my laws, and that the Pope in Rome is higher than the Negus Negest! That confuses my people and excites rebellion, as the history of the past few years sufficiently shows. From the Catholics we are otherwise only separated by the question of the Unity of Christ's nature. What is the Pope of Rome to me?

The Protestants, on the other hand, desire that we should not worship the Mother of God, should have no monasteries, and many other things. But why do Protestant and Catholic missionaries come to me? Why do they not first convert the Mohammedan Egyptians, on their way to Abyssinia? Why do they also not convert the Turks—the Mohammedans—in Jerusalem? We are Christians.' The Negus Negest became quite warm over this explanation, against which I had certainly nothing to advance." —*Letter from Herr Gerhard Rohlfs to the Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung, April 29, 1881.*

THE EAST AFRICAN SLAVE TRADE.

Letters just received from the East Coast of Africa report that the Sultan of Zanzibar, in conjunction with Dr. Kirk, Her Majesty's Consul-General, has recently taken a most vigorous step towards arresting the slave traffic by sea. Despite the vigilance of our cruisers, slaves were constantly smuggled over in small boats from the mainland to the island of Pemba. Determined, if possible, to put a stop to this contraband trade, although acting therein beyond his treaty obligations, the Sultan despatched Lieutenant Matthews, R.N., the able and energetic Commander of the Zanzibar Nizam, or regular army, to the mainland, with a detachment of the same, and invested him with full powers, as his Commissioner, over the local authorities on the coast. The result has been signally satisfactory. The employment of the Nizam on such a duty caused no

small commotion, but it was carried out effectually; houses were searched, slaves taken, and several slave-dealers, including the ringleader, were seized and brought to Zanzibar. The manner, moreover, in which this expedition was organized will have a most deterrent effect upon the future proceedings of the professional slave-dealers, who will never feel certain that a similar raid is not in contemplation against them. On this occasion the expedition was kept a profound secret, for even the men knew nothing of their destination. They were told off for service while on parade, and were marched straight on board without being permitted to take leave of their friends. It is confidently stated that the Sultan has approved all the measures taken by Lieutenant Matthews, and purposes to repeat the experiment as occasion may arise. — *The Times, June 2, 1881.*

ENGLISH CONSULS IN THE SOUDAN.

It will be remembered that last June a Deputation from this Society waited upon Earl Granville, and urged upon his Lordship the necessity of appointing one or more English Consuls in the Soudan, and on the Red Sea, specially one with head quarters at Khartoum.

This Society has continued to urge this appointment, but hitherto without success, although Earl Granville stated, in reply to the Deputation, that, "no doubt, greater consular supervision, with a more extended jurisdiction, such as is advocated by the Society is necessary, and that a scheme was under the consideration of the Foreign Office." Nothing, however, appears to have been done although public opinion in England and in Egypt has pronounced in favour of appointing Consuls, and has been supported by *The Times*, the *Egyptian Gazette* and other papers.

That it is believed in Egypt that an English Consul will shortly be appointed at Khartoum may be seen from the following extract, translated from a letter written by the late Gessi Pacha to *L'Esploratore*, only a few weeks before his death. He thus writes: "The Representative of Italy at Khartoum, M. Calixte Legnani, does all in his power to maintain the best relations with the

Government and with his colleagues, the Consuls of Austria and Greece. A French Consul is expected here immediately—in fact, he has probably arrived at Berber. AN ENGLISH CONSUL IS EQUALLY EXPECTED, so that, before long, the flags of all nations will float over the capital of the Soudan."

We trust that our Foreign Office will very soon appoint a Consul, and give him full authority to see that the Egyptian Government fulfils its engagements in regard to putting down the slave-trade.

Obituary.

THE LATE MR. HENRY PEASE.

In the death of Mr. Henry Pease the Anti-Slavery Society has lost a good friend, for though more actively associated with the Peace Society, of which he was long the honored President, Mr. Pease was ever ready to extend his sympathy and his aid to the cause of the enslaved Negro. From the *Northern Echo* of May 31st, we extract a few notes of the life of this benevolent and upright Christian Gentleman, who may indeed be held up as a model Railway Director and man of business, a noble philanthropist, and an earnest and humble Christian.

A long, a noble, and a useful life has closed in solemn calm. Prepared as the local public have been for the final departure of Mr. Henry Pease from their midst, the mournful intelligence of his death will awaken deep emotions of regret, not only in the locality in which he was best known, but in circles far and wide. Only the other day, as it were, he was the central figure in the celebration of the railway jubilee, and now he passes from view almost on the eve of the Stephenson Centenary.

By birth, by education, and by conviction, Mr. Henry Pease was a thorough Liberal, ever earnest in the cause of political reform. When South Durham had a Conservative as one of its representatives, it was Mr. Henry Pease who was unanimously chosen, in 1857, to regain the seat for the Liberal party. He was returned at the head of the poll, and sat till 1865, when he retired in favour of his nephew, Mr. J. W. Pease, the present respected member. His Parliamentary, like his commercial career, was honourable and successful, and in the discharge of municipal duties also he set a worthy example. He was ever on the side of social and religious reform, and his labours for the promotion of international peace were unique in their fervour and

importance. Mr. Henry Pease was one of the three members of the Society of Friends who formed the memorable deputation to the Czar Nicholas just before the actual outbreak of the Crimean War. The expedition was Quixotic, it is true, but it was a noble and self-sacrificing effort to avert the horrors of war, and an expression of strong religious conviction and singleness of soul and purpose. Mr. Henry Pease proceeded on an other pilgrimage of peace to the Emperor Napoleon in 1867, the object being to obtain permission to hold a Peace Congress in Paris during the International Exhibition. He did not succeed then, but he lived to preside over the Peace Congress he desired in Paris after Napoleon and his Empire had fallen by war. These are but a few of the leading points of Mr. Pease's career.

All through his life he never ceased to uphold the testimony of his Church against war, on the simple ground that it is contrary to the precepts of Christianity.

We deeply regret to record the death of our valued corresponding member, Dr. Humphrey Sandwith, C.B., which occurred at Paris recently. In him the struggling nationalities of the East and the slaves in Turkey and Egypt have lost a true friend.

Reviews.

COLONEL GORDON IN CENTRAL AFRICA.

Edited by Geo. Birkbeck Hill, D.C.L.*

This remarkable book contains a history of one of the most stirring periods in the life of Colonel Gordon, written for the most part in his own words.

Dr. Birkbeck Hill, the editor of the work, tells us that he never saw the man whose life he has written, nor did he ever correspond with him. He was bound to treat Colonel Gordon as though he were dead, and he, the editor, were his literary executor.

In this respect therefore we have an advantage over Dr. Hill, as we have enjoyed the privilege of many conversations with Colonel Gordon during several months past, and have received from him most kind and valuable assistance in obtaining information relating to the dark deeds that are still enacted by the slave-dealer in the Soudan.

It would be impossible to review this book in the usual cursory way, and we

* London: Thomas De la Rue & Co., 1881.

shall prefer to give to the readers of the *Anti-Slavery Reporter* from time to time copious extracts from this most important work as far as our limited space will allow.

In his introductory chapter, Dr. Hill gives an animated sketch of the life of Colonel Gordon, until the time when he commenced to write from the Soudan the series of extraordinary letters which form the chief contents of this volume.

In the very few pages devoted to the memoir of Colonel Gordon the stirring scenes of his active life pass rapidly before us like the bright and changing colors of a kaleidoscope.

First we see him in the trenches before Sebastapol, where he was wounded, and then actively engaged in the dangerous work of destroying the docks of that Russian stronghold. Soon afterwards we see him assisting in laying down the new Russian and Turkish frontiers in Europe and Armenia. In 1860 he was present at the capture of Pekin, and in the following year, accompanied by a single English officer he made a long and adventurous journey on horseback to the Outer Wall of China. His career in China during 1862 and 1863 and 1864 has been already described in a work, entitled *Colonel Gordon's Chinese Campaign*, by Andrew Wilson. The manner in which he quelled the great Taiping Rebellion by means of his "ever victorious army" reminds one of the deeds of a hero of romance. He became the idol of his men, who naturally considered that he bore a charmed life, as he was ever found in the thickest of the fight, carrying no other weapon than a small cane, "Gordon's magic wand of victory."

After the suppression of the rebellion he was made a Mandarin of a very high order, and was decorated with a yellow jacket and a peacock's feather! The more substantial reward of £10,000 he positively refused to accept, showing then, as now, his utter indifference to worldly wealth. As *The Times* truly remarked in summing up its description of Gordon's Chinese career "never did soldier of fortune deport himself with a nicer sense of military honor, with more gallantry against the resisting, and with more mercy towards the vanquished,

with more disinterested neglect of opportunities of personal advantage, or with more entire devotion to the objects and desires of his own Government, than this officer, who, after all his victories has just laid down his sword."

From 1865 to 1871 Colonel Gordon was employed at Gravesend as Commanding Royal Engineer, superintending the erection of the Thames defences. In 1872 he was English Commissioner on the Danube, and the next year he accepted from the Khedive, with the consent of his own Government, the post of Governor of the Soudan, then about to be vacated by Sir Samuel Baker. He was asked to fix his own terms, and named the modest sum of £2,000 a year. Sir Samuel Baker's career is well known to our readers from his interesting work, entitled *Ismailia*. Many of us have also followed Colonel Gordon more or less closely during the six years of his Government, and have seen him retire from the field of his labors in January, 1880, with feelings of regret, and with forebodings that have been only too fully realised.

Colonel Gordon's book may be divided into two parts—the first of which extends from his appointment by the Ex-Khedive (Ismail Pacha) in February, 1874, with the curious title of "His Excellency General Colonel Gordon, Governor-General of the Equator," until his arrival in England on December 24th, 1876.

The second and last division covers a period of nearly three years, viz., from February, 1877, to December, 1879, and we here find that Colonel Gordon's powers were greatly enlarged, and he was invested with the title of "Governor-General of the Soudan."

Nearly the whole of the interesting work under review consists of private letters written by Colonel Gordon during these two periods, and we can honestly say that no such correspondence has been laid before the reading public for a very long time. The letters are racy and natural to a marvellous degree, and portray, not only in a most realistic manner the scenes through which the writer passed—far beyond the outskirts of civilisation,—but at the same time they allow you to see as in a mirror the

innermost thoughts and feelings of the intensely religious mind of the author. It would be out of place to say much on this latter point, but we cannot forbear from expressing our admiration for the man, who through all the troubles, trials, and anxieties of his desolate wanderings through a terrible wilderness—both physical and moral—could exhibit such unflinching faith in the Providence of God, and such a supreme contempt for anything the world could bestow, either in praise or in censure, as is shewn in the extraordinary letters now before us.

Some men might call Colonel Gordon a fatalist—so firm is his faith in everything being over-ruled by a divine hand—but we see a marked difference between the blind fatalism of the Mohammedan—the Kismet of the Turk—and the steadfast faith of a Christian believer, who sees in all things, both great and small, evidences of the Divine government of the universe and has faith to believe that not only cannot a sparrow fall to the ground without our Father's knowledge, but that even the very hairs of our head are all numbered. In other words that God takes cognizance of the minutest actions of our lives, and overrules all for our eternal good—even when the natural man may fail to see any present or worldly gain.

Colonel Gordon's first expedition took him up the Nile as far as Lake Albert Nyanza, and even some distance beyond, though he turned back at the border of King Mtesa's country, having no mission beyond Mrooli, and his further advance might have produced complications which he was anxious to avoid.

His remarks upon the disappointment that he must naturally have felt at retracing his steps when only a few miles from the Victoria Nyanza, are characteristic of the man.

"You can imagine what I must feel about this bit of the Nile, for it is the *only bit* I have not done from Berber upwards to Lake Victoria! But reason says divide, and weaken your forces; concentrate, and strengthen your forces; and so my personal feelings must be thrown over." This is a specimen of how he acted throughout his long career;

self was always thrown over when duty was in the way.

The principal object of Colonel Gordon's first journey was to establish military posts all along the Nile, from Khartoum to the Lakes, and to put together a steamer on Lake Albert Nyanza. He succeeded in both these objects, although the difficulties which he had to overcome were well nigh insurmountable.

He was also commissioned to put down the slave-trade—an apparently impossible task—but one in which he certainly made some progress, whilst he succeeded in striking terror into the hearts of the slave-dealers. How this was done our readers must learn by carefully reading the most interesting volume of letters now under review, an epitome of which it is quite impossible to give.

The book is presented in a most charming and readable shape by the editor, and its outer form is equally well presented by Messrs. De la Rue & Co. We venture to think that it will be largely read, and that it will do more to open the eyes of the public to the horrors of the slave-trade, than any work of modern times. We hope to make copious extracts from these letters from time to time, as we can find space. In our present number we can only just commence the journey with His Excellency who was very glad to get away from Egypt, as the following extract will show:—

"I think the Khedive likes me, but no one else does; and I do not like them—I mean the swells, whose corns I tread on in all manner of ways.
I saw ——— at Suez. He agrees with me in our opinion of the rottenness of Egypt: it is all for the flesh, and in no place is human nature to be studied with such advantage. Duke of This wants steamer—say, £600. Duke of That wants house, etc. All the time the poor people are ground down to get money for all this. Who art thou to be afraid of a man? If he wills, I will shake all this in some way not clear to me now. Do not think that I am an egotist; I am like Moses who despised the riches of Egypt. We have a King mightier than these, and more enduring riches and power in Him than we can have in this world. I will not bow to Haman.

"Khartoum, March 14.—We left Berber on March 9, and arrived here on the 13th, at daybreak. The Governor-General met your * brother in full uniform, and he landed amid a salute of Artillery, and a battalion of troops with a band. It was a fine sight (the day before your brother had his trowsers off, and was pulling the boat in the Nile, in spite of crocodiles, who never touch you when moving). He cannot move now without guards turning out. I have got a good house here, and am very happy and comfortable.

"I had a review the day after my arrival, and visited the hospital and the schools. They are well cared for, and the little blacks were glad to see me. (I wish that flies would not dine in the corners of their eyes!) Khartoum is a fine place, as far as position goes. The houses are made of mud, and flat-roofed. I leave on the 20th for Gondokoro, and hope to be there on April 18th. The caravan comes after me, and will be there in two months. I am quite well, and have quiet times in spite of all the work. Tell —, (as he said,) "Self is the best officer to do anything for you."

"Khartoum, March 17. — Your brother's title is, "His Excellency General Colonel Gordon" — (it seems an extraordinary mixture) — "the Governor-General of the Equator;" so no one can or ought to cross it without permission of his Excellency! . . . I have issued a stinging decree, declaring the Government monopoly of the ivory trade, and prohibiting the import of arms and powder, the levying of the armed bands by private people and the entry of no one without passport; in fact I have put the district under martial law, i.e., the will of the General.

BOIL YOUR WATER BEFORE DRINKING.

From *Bahr Gazelle*, Colonel Gordon writes, "Tell——I never drink other than water that is boiled; and I thank him for the advice, for it has kept me well." If travellers in general, specially in France and Italy, followed this advice

there would not be nearly so many lamentable deaths from Typhoid Fever.

THE NATIVES OF THE BAHR GAZELLE.

April 10th, 1874.

Swarms of natives,—having rubbed their faces with woodash, they are the colour of slate pencils. Sometimes they do not rub their faces, so that they look as if they had on black masks. Poor people! They are very badly fed and appear to be in much suffering. What a mystery—is it not? why they are created! a life of fear and misery night and day! One does not wonder at their not fearing death. No one can conceive the utter misery of these lands—heat and mosquitos day and night all the year round. But I like the work for I believe I can do a great deal to ameliorate the lot of the people.

* * * * *

We see some very young mamas—some apparently not more than twelve or thirteen years old. The women wear tails of hide.

HE IS LEFT ALONE.

At Sanbat he writes:—

July 20, 1874.

My German servant, a very good one, has got so frightened that he is going back—so much the better! THE BEST SERVANT I EVER HAD IS MYSELF; HE ALWAYS DOES WHAT I LIKE.

He was now left alone amongst Arabs, but full of strong reliance on Divine aid; for about this time he writes:—

Keep your eyes on the cloud by day and the pillar by night, and never mind your steps. The direction is the main point.

It is our own fault we are so discontented. We throw away the best years of our existence in trying for a time, which will never come, when we shall have enough to content us. I am sure it is the secret of true happiness to be content with what we actually have. Of course you may preach this (and it has been preached for ages) and never be listened to. We raise our own goblins, and as soon as one is laid, we raise another. I agree that I have not patience with the groans of half the world, and declare I think there is more happiness among these miserable blacks, who have not a meal from day to day, than among our own middle classes. The blacks are glad of a little handful of maize, and live in the greatest discomfort. They have not a strip to cover them; but you do not see them grunting and groaning all day long as you see scores and scores in England, with their wretched dinner-parties and attempts at gaiety, where all is hollow and miserable. If they have one thing they have not another. Better bring up their children to a trade, than let them follow their fathers' sad lives. There would be no one so unwelcome to come and reside in this world as our Saviour, while the world is in the state it now is.

* Col. Gordon constantly speaks of himself in the third person; the letters were addressed to his sister,

The Arabs hate these parts, and all the Arab troops are sent up for punishment; their constitutions, unlike ours, cannot stand the wet and damp, or the dulness of the life. I prefer it infinitely to going out to dinner in England, and have kept my health exceedingly well.

Colonel Gordon was blessed with remarkable health, owing doubtless, on great part, to his extreme temperance. Later on, however, we find him giving part of the credit to an infallible recipe, which may be worth copying:

I have been studying medicine a good deal, and found out a great thing—i.e., that $\frac{1}{2}$ gr. of ginger, $\frac{1}{2}$ gr. of ipecacuanha, and 3 grs. of rhubarb, make a splendid daily pill, and can be taken without hurt for years or a lifetime. These keep me in perfect health; they are taken either at breakfast or dinner; *not* to be taken *fasting*.

Having now gone with Colonel Gordon on his first trip as far as Gondokoro, we must there leave him until our next number.

(To be continued.)

LIFE OF JAMES MURSELL PHILLIPPO, MISSIONARY IN JAMAICA. BY EDWARD BEAN UNDERHILL, LL.D., HONORARY SECRETARY OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY SOCIETY.*

THIS is an interesting and instructive biography. Published at a price within the reach of almost everyone, this work consists of one volume—a desideratum in these days of large-priced two-volume works—in part autobiographical, and ought to be in the library of all interested in the life-work of one who, for upwards of half a century laboured for the good of the coloured population of Jamaica. Well-known as Mr. Phillippo was to a large number of our readers, it is needless for us to review this memoir of his life at length, for we are sure that most of his friends will obtain a copy for themselves. We shall, therefore, confine our notice to the part which Mr. Phillippo took in the abolition of colonial slavery.

In 1823, Mr. Phillippo proceeded to Jamaica as a missionary of the Baptist Missionary Society. On his arrival there, he found his fellow-missionaries in great

trouble, from the persecution which was inflicted upon them by the slave-holding authorities of the Island. At first he was refused permission to preach, but after the lapse of some months, on his receiving *sealed* letters of recommendation from England, he was permitted to do so. But, ere long, he was ordered to join the Militia, and was only relieved from serving by the attestation of the Lord Mayor of London, that he was an authorised minister. He then entered fully upon his work, and received little or no persecution from the authorities until the year 1827, when, owing to a recently-passed Colonial Act, Baptist and other dissenting ministers were prohibited from taking contributions from slaves; while no sectarian minister, or other teacher of religion, was allowed to keep open his place of meeting between sunset and sunrise. On the 11th June, 1827, Mr. Phillippo received notice that an information had been filed against him for a breach of this clause of the Act, but, after an amusing scene in court, the summons was dismissed; much to the disappointment, however, of the slave-owners the Act was disallowed by the English Government.

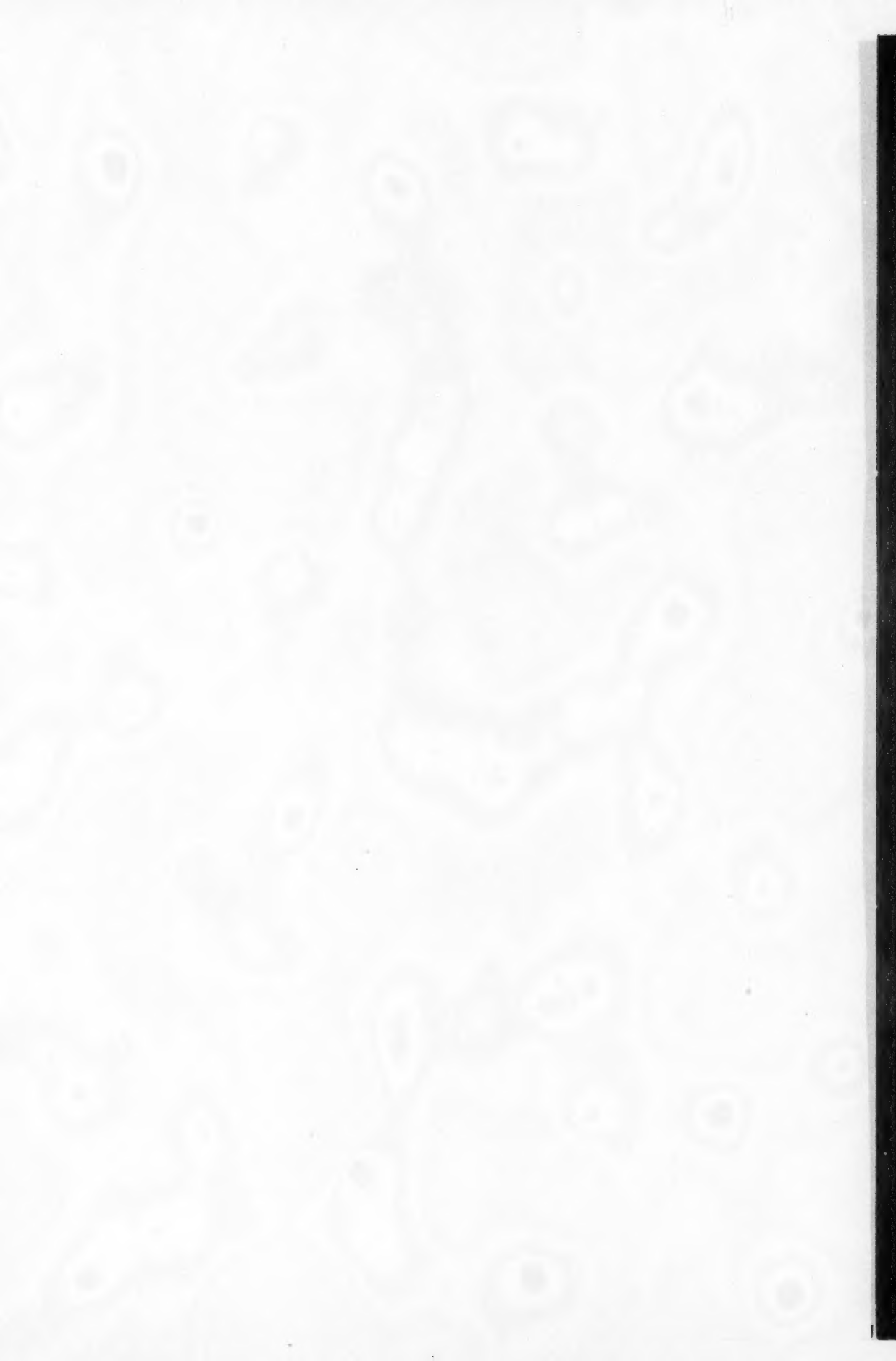
Mr. Phillippo was an advocate for entire emancipation, unhampered by apprenticeship; and, in a meeting at the Guildhall Coffee House, he protested against the clause of the Bill which proposed this form of slavery.

Mr. Hinton, in his life of William Knibb, alludes to the silence of Mr. Phillippo and other missionaries on the question of slavery in Jamaica, but Dr. Underhill points out that Mr. Phillippo did not refer to the question, as he was requested not to do so by the Secretary of the Missionary Society, who had deputed the matter to Mr. Knibb.

Space precludes our giving further details of Mr. Phillippo's long and useful career, but it may be remembered that a long and interesting obituary notice appeared in our columns in August, 1879, to which we refer our readers.

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* London: Yates & Alexander, 1881.



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